

## 2007-2008 Iowa Parent Partner Program Update

The Parent Partner Program has completed its first full year of implementation. There are five established Parent Partner Programs: 1) Cherokee, Ida, Lyon, Plymouth, and Sioux Counties; 2) Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien, and Osceola (Lakes Area); 3) Polk County; 4) Linn County; 5) Madison, Marion, and Warren Counties. Wapello County will host their first training in January. New areas continue to request presentations and materials to learn more about the Parent Partner Program.

The Statewide Steering Committee has guided implementation of the Parent Partner Programs through a shared decision-making process. The committee has diverse representation including Parent Partner coordinators, DHS, Parent Partners, program administrators and/or Building A Better Future (BABF) trainers. The committee has been instrumental in developing an implementation and start-up guide; collecting data and tracking outcomes; updating BABF curriculum; defining expectations and responsibilities of coordinators, Parent Partners, and local steering committees; and establishing criteria for participants and BABF trainers.

Parent Partners provide support to parents that are involved with DHS and are working towards reunification. Parent Partners mentor one on one, celebrate families' success and strengths, exemplify advocacy, facilitate BABF training and presentations, and collaborate with DHS and child welfare.

If a person chooses or does not meet Parent Partner criteria, s/he can be involved as a Parent Partner Aide or Ally. Aides and Allies support the program and parents by attending and/or developing birth parent orientation and support groups, participating in curriculum, policy, and internal organization, creating and implementing recruitment strategies, sharing experiences and administrative support.

Participants share experiences and offer recommendations through: foster/adoptive parent training; new child welfare worker orientation; local and statewide planning/steering committees and conferences; and Community Partnership participation.

Data was collected from four sites (Lakes Area; Polk County; Linn County; and Madison, Marion and Warren Counties) from Oct 2007 to Oct 2008. Thirty-nine Parent Partners supported 152 families.

<b>Types of Support Provided</b>	<b># Times Parent Partners participated</b>		<b>Types of Support Provided</b>	<b># Times Parent Partners participated</b>
Attend FTM	123		Helped a parent access needed services	422
Support family at court	130		Supported the parent during visitation	61
Attended other child welfare meeting	30		Had face-to-face contact with a family	979
Went to counseling session with a parent	41		Had other contact with a family	3952